

**Testimony in Support of Bill HB 5277: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT THAT
PROMOTES ACCESSIBILITY IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**

March 7, 2022 Public Health Committee Public Hearing

My name is Eileen Healy and I live in Woodbury. I am writing in support of proposed HB 5277, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT THAT PROMOTES ACCESSIBILITY IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

There is a serious lack of accessible medical diagnostic equipment, including exam tables, chairs, weight scales, and lifts, that prohibits complete, and therefore equal, medical care and treatment. There also needs to be adequate training of medical professionals in the use of accessible equipment.

Accessible diagnostic medical equipment is a necessity for people with different types of disabilities, as well as elders. To get weighed, a basic evaluation of health, some people with disabilities use the animal scale at a veterinarian's office, because there is no accessible scale at their medical provider. This is just not acceptable.

The U.S. Access Board issued accessibility standards for diagnostic medical equipment in 2017, but compliance with their standards remain unenforced. This results in lack of medical treatment for people with disabilities that results in higher incident rates of preventable disease and a higher mortality rate for those diagnosed with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses and disabilities. The lack of accessible medical equipment also puts people with disabilities, elders and medical staff at risk of injury as they attempt to use inaccessible equipment. This demonstrates that there are health inequities throughout Connecticut and nationally and that people with disabilities are discriminated against when attempting to access medical care.

I urge you to support HB 5277 and support accessible medical equipment and healthcare for people with disabilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted:



Eileen M. Healy